

Written testimony submitted by Cathy Barber, Certified Holistic Health Coach, Wethersfield, CT

Regarding Raised House Bill 6519 to the Public Health Committee, State of CT:

Please be advised of my strong support for HB 6519, An Act Concerning the Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods.

Truthful and complete disclosure of food ingredients is important to public health and safety, especially for at-risk individuals. Since ingredient lists are already required on packaged foods, it is essential for labels to be truthful and accurate. Surely, if you frequently found organisms such as flies or worms in your foods, you would insist on them being listed as ingredients. The same is true for genetically modified organisms. If they are there, it is essential that consumers be given that information on the label.

The opportunity to identify true and actual ingredients, differentiating between non-GMO and GMO food sources, is essential to the health and safety of consumers. We have a right to know what is in our food. We must be informed in a truthful, accurate & transparent method about the contents presented to us as human food.

It saddens me to note we have more stringent requirements regarding disclosure of the contents of automobile fuel than we do for the "human body fuel," or food, I purchase. Is the health & safety of a consumer improved by labels stating "Contains 10% ethanol," disclosure required on every retail gasoline dispenser? Surely, I deserve to know that **the fuel for my body includes a product of that very same origin**, genetically modified corn or soybeans.

Full and truthful disclosure of food content, including Genetically Engineered Foods, is essential. Is it not a basic consumer right? Anything less than full and truthful disclosure via labeling is unacceptable.

Please support HB 6519, An Act Concerning the Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

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